

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claim 31 and adds claim 36. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-14, and 20-36 will be pending. Accordingly, thirty (30) claims are presented, five (5) of which are in independent form (claims 1, 7, 11, 20, and 31). For the addition of claim 36, claim fees of \$25 are due. For this claim fee and any other fees which are deemed necessary following submittal of this Amendment, the undersigned hereby authorizes such fees to be charged to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 061910.

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara et al. (US Patent No. 5,829,219) in view of Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,883,310). Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections, yet makes claim amendments herein in order to advance prosecution of this application.

On July 7, 2006, Applicant's attorney had a telephone interview with the Examiner in which the above rejections were discussed, along with the meaning of the term "corrugated configuration" used in claim 31. During the interview, Applicant's attorney explained that the use of the term "corrugated configuration" in claim 31 is meant to infer that both the protrusions of each side frame member and the walls of each cross member end portion have "a plurality of segments extending longitudinally thereof that are oriented in a jagged relation to each other" (Fig. 4 and page 8, lines 16-17 with respect to the protrusions, and Fig. 5 and page 9, line 24 -- page 10, line 1 with respect to the cross member end portion walls). Further, in certain embodiments of Applicant's invention, the protrusions and cross member end portion walls each have four segments, with the segments oriented so that the protrusions and walls are shaped in the form of a "w" (Fig. 4 and page 8, lines 18-20 with respect to the protrusions, and Fig. 5 and page 10, lines 1-3 with respect to the walls).

As such, with Applicant's invention, the "corrugated configuration" of each of the protrusions and cross member end portion walls involves a configuration forming a plurality of peaks and valleys. Applicant asserts that neither Sugawara et al. nor Miyazaki et al., used solely or in combination, teaches such a "corrugated configuration". In turn, if claim 31 were amended to include such above-mentioned "w" shaped language with respect to the protrusions and the

cross member end portion walls, it would appear to make claim 31 allowable in light of the cited art. Examiner agreed with Applicant's attorney.

As such, Applicant has amended claim 31 to include such "w" shape language. In turn, Applicant asserts that upon entry of this Amendment, claim 31 is hereby in condition for allowance. As such, the allowance of claim 31 as described above thereby renders claims 32-34 also allowable.

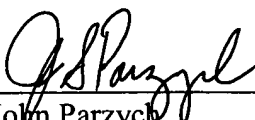
In addition, claim 36 has been added and is dependent on claim 31. Claim 36 speaks to certain particular segments of the protrusions and the cross member end portion walls which are fastened together. Such fastening configuration is clearly illustrated in Figure 6 and is now further supported via the amendment to the specification provided in this Amendment. The allowance of claim 31 as described above thereby renders claim 36 also allowable.

Applicant believes that no new matter will be introduced by entry of these amendments and that the amendments are fully supported by the specification and application as a whole. Applicant has amended the claims solely to advance prosecution of this application and to obtain the allowance of claims at the earliest possible date. No admission should be inferred by these amendments. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the originally filed claims in a continuation application.

In light of the above, Applicant submits that the present rejections should be withdrawn and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be materially advanced by a telephonic interview, the undersigned would welcome a call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/20/06



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